

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 3816

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) LE
SUBJ: YOUR DISCUSSIONS IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS:
COMMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS

1. HAD REVIEW OF YOUR VISIT TO BEIRUT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MORNING AUGUST 5. HE SAID HE THOUGHT VISIT HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL AND WAS VERY HIGH IN HIS PRAISE OF YOUR PERSONALITY AND OBVIOUS SINCERITY. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT ARABS IN GENERAL WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED WITH FIVE PRINCIPLES OF SETTLEMENT WHICH YOU HAD GIVEN PRESIDENT SARKIS. BOUTROS SAID HE HAD IMPRESSION FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS IN CAIRO THAT EGYPTIANS AND OTHER ARABS THOUGHT THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH A COMMITMENT TO PEACE CONSIDERABLY LESS EXPLICIT IN TERMS OF NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THAN THE FIVE PRINCIPLES SEEM TO IMPLY. THERE WAS GENERAL ARAB APPREHENSION THAT ISRAELIS SAW OPEN BORDERS AND AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS A WAY TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE OVER REGION AS A WHOLE.

2. I SAID ARABS SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT NECESSITY FOR FIRM COMMITMENT TO REAL PEACE AS THE ONLY
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POSSIBLE WAY TO GET ISRAELIS TO GIVE UP TERRITORY. WE WERE COMMITTED TO SEEKING SETTLEMENT ON BASIS OF TRADING TERRITORY FOR PEACE. IN ORDER FOR US TO HAVE ANY LUCK WITH THIS, ARAB COMMITMENT TO PEACE HAD TO BE CREDIBLE. OTHERWISE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PRESSURE WE MIGHT WISH TO APPLY, WE WOULD NEVER CONVINCE ISRAELIS TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS

ARABS WERE DEMANDING OF THEM. IF YOUR EFFORTS WERE TO SUCCEED, WE NEEDED ARAB HELP IN THIS RESPECT.

3. I ASKED BOUTROS IF HE WOULD HAVE FOR YOU BY THE END OF AUGUST A TEXT OF THE SORT OF PEACE TREATY LEBANESE WOULD LIKE TO SEE. HE SMILED WRYLY AND SAID HE DOUBTED ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PUT THEMSELVES ON RECORD IN THIS RESPECT. HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER HE COULD MEET THE REQUEST, MUCH AS HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO DO SO.

4. WE HAD DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL. BOUTROS SAID THAT IF IT WAS TO TAKE PLACE HE WOULD WANT TO PARTICIPATE. HE SAID THAT ATTITUDE OF SYRIAN WOULD BE CRUCIAL FOR LEBANON. IF SYRIANS PARTICIPATED, LEBANON WOULD PARTICIPATE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEWS FROM DAMASCUS SEEMED UNFAVORABLE IN THIS REGARD. I SAID ALL I HAD TO GO ON WAS A BBC REPORT WHICH SAID THAT ASAD HAD SAID THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD NOT MEET WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK IN ADVANCE OF GENEVA. I SAID I DID NOT THINK THAT WAS NATURE OF PROPOSAL. YOU HAD SAID THAT IF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WANTED, MEETING WITH ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEW YORK COULD BE ARRANGED. PURPOSE OF WORKING GROUP, HOWEVER,
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SEEMED TO BE TO FACILITATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN PARTIES CONCERNED BY HAVING THEM ALL IN SAME TOWN AT SAME TIME. YOU HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS TO BE INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED. THE SORT OF CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHICH WERE REQUIRED IF WE WERE TO HAVE SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED NEARLY AS EASILY IF YOU HAD TO FLY FROM CAPITAL TO CAPITAL AS IT COULD IF EVERYONE WAS IN THE SAME TOWN.

5. BOUTROS THEN ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR TALKS IN DAMASCUS. I SAID WE HAD NONE TO DATE. HE RECALLED THAT YOU HAD PROMISED TO RAISE WITH BOTH THE SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS THE QUESTION OF THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS A UN FORCE IN THE SOUTH. HE NEEDED TO HAVE SOME INDICATION OF SYRIAN ATTITUDE BEFORE HE SAW SYRIANS NEXT WEEK. I SAID I WOULD SEND MESSAGE ASKING WHAT WE COULD TELL HIM.
PARKER

NOTE: BEIRUT 3816 UPGRADED TO NODIS PER STATE 184847

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